

been in his mind. 'I should have
 liked you,' write
 Austen in July, 1830, to have had a picking
 out of the
 general election ; it would be a famous
 opening and. ¹^{Q1}
 to say.' During his sojourn in the
 East, Disraeli fr^a
 been a diligent reader of *Gralignani*, and he
 used in. latf
 life to say that it was in studying a file of
 that 'excellei
 publication' during his long detention in
 quarantine i
 Malta that he first began to understand
 politics.¹ Tlroiig
G-alignani he was able to follow the
 fortunes of tl
 Reform movement, and he followed them
 with the keene
 interest. 'What a confusion you are all
 in,' lie wro
 to Austen from Constantinople, when he
 read of th
 'bold act of cowardice'² on the part of the
 Wellingt
 Ministry, the postponement of the King's
 visit to t]
 City in November, 1830. 'I have just
 got thtrou^
 a batch of *GraUgnanis*. What a capital
 Pantomime
 would make: "The Lord Mayor's Day
 or Harlequ
 Brougham." ' ; and the fancy pleased him so
 muctt th
 by a habit that was already forming he
 repeated it
 almost the same words in letters to his
 father and Bialw
 •adding to Bulwer, ' Oh for the days
 of Aristopliaii'
 or Foote, or even Scaramouch! Damn
 the Licenser
 •* The wonderful news which meets me
 here in a pile
Q-alignnanis has quite unsettled my mind,' he
 writes f re
 Cairo on reading of the introduction of the
 first Irtef o:
 Bill. ' I am of course very anxious to hear
 of tine p:
 gress of the Bill. I have heard up to the
 majority of on
 Disraeli arrived in England on the day that
 Parliaxnt
 •was prorogued after the rejection of the
 second R,ef o

¹ *Life of Jowett*, It., p. 109.

² The phrase was Lord Wellesley's. Disraeli has an interesting i

on this occurrence, written in 1836 : —

'Sir Robert Peel told me that Hume was the real cause of the Ki: not going into the City. They had received many -warnings and T» information, when suddenly Joseph sought a confidential intei-vie-v the Home Office and told Peel he was in possession of information o: •extraordinary character and that an insurrection was certain. AJ wards Joseph had the impudence to make a speech in the TTous< Commons abusing the Ministers for not letting the King go, and. dLecla that it was his solemn belief that the outcry was all an alarming inven of their own. " I might have risen and crushed him, the impudent d< said Peel. Why did he not ? The interview was certainly **confiden** "but the speech absolved the Minister, in my opinion.'

